

NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF A FLYING CRUSTACEAN IN  
THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

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While fishing along the base of a limestone cliff in Bacuit Bay, Palawan, during the month of December, 1912, I saw close to my launch what I at first mistook for a peculiarly formed flying fish of some species which I had never previously observed. It was translucent, rose from the water somewhat sharply, and "flew" not more than two or three rods before dropping into the water again.

The more I pondered on what I had seen the more it seemed to me that the creature could not be a fish. It had looked more like a crayfish or shrimp, with one or two pairs of much flattened legs directed forward and others curving backward, the legs and the lobes of the tail making the supporting planes.

On the evening of August 15, 1913, when trolling off the edge of the shoal extending in a southeasterly direction from East Island near the coast of Palawan, I again saw the same sort of a creature, and this time there was no mistaking it. It rose close to the boat, mounted into the air rapidly, then held a level course for a short distance, and dropped suddenly into the water again. It was unquestionably a very transparent crustacean, from 15 to 20 centimeters in length.

On the morning of August 17, when trolling off the shoal on the north side of Lumbucan Island, I saw a third specimen, and later in Malampaya Sound I saw a fourth. At this place Mr. W. Schultze, of the Bureau of Science, also saw one, and there remains no doubt of the existence in the Philippines of a marine crustacean, from 15 to 25 centimeters in length, which has the power of rising rapidly from the water and "flying," after the fashion of a flying fish, for several rods.

The specimens observed by me invariably rose against the wind.